

McN to Take 3 Biggies on Saigon Visit

By PAUL HEALY.

Washington, March 1 (NEWS Bureau)—Defense Secretary Robert McNamara will take with him the most power-loaded delegation yet to South Viet Nam when he goes on his trouble-shooting mission there this week on President Johnson's orders.

The State Department tonight confirmed that William P. Bundy, new assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern affairs, will accompany McNamara.

Earlier today NEWS correspondent Joseph Fried reported from Saigon that Gen. Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and John McCone, di-

rector of the Central Intelligence Agency, also will accompany the defense chief.

The top-level personnel now slated to take an on-the-spot look in Viet Nam points up the worsening conditions in the war against the Communist Viet Cong guerrillas and that the war threatens to become a domestic political issue.

'Not Gone to Pot'

Washington for weeks has been alive with reports that the Johnson Administration is seriously considering expanding the war against the North Viet Nameese or backing a neutralization proposal as a way out of the costly stalemate involving American men and equipment.

President Johnson at his press conference yesterday insisted that the war in Viet Nam has "not gone to pot." He said McNamara would leave in the next few days and "will correctly appraise the situation." Johnson admitted that "we have a very difficult situation . . . we are furnishing advice and counsel and training to the South Viet Nam army. We must rely on them for such action as is taken to defend themselves."

Bundy was appointed to the new Far Eastern post this week to replace Roger Hilsman, who resigned as assistant secretary amid a welter of reports that his leave-taking signaled a shake-up in the handling of the touchy Viet Nam problem. Bundy was formerly Assistant Secretary of Defense for interantional affairs under McNamara.

Johnson also has named William K. Sullivan to head up a special task force to coordinate Viet Nam policies.

Saigon, March 1 (Special) — Gen. Nguyen Khanh charged today that French agents, in league with the Communists, were backing the anti-American terror campaign by the Viet Cong. He renewed his declaration that the French agents were plotting to assassinate him.

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